

CGCT Meeting 01/12/21 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Chris Ebstein.

Participants: via Zoom, Chris, Jim, Ric, Frannie, Gloria, Paul, Dean, Deb

Reviewed Minutes from December meeting

Motion: Motion was made by Gloria and seconded by Dean to accept the December meeting minutes. Minutes amended to clarify what was meant by “Chris’ picture”.

Gloria amended the motion to include “as amended”, Dean seconded.

Passed unanimously.

Reviewed Treasurer Report for January 12, 2021

Payments were made for the acquisition of the MCRT. Appraisal can now be submitted for reimbursement.

Motion: Motion was made by Dean and seconded by Paul to accept the January 12, 2021 treasurer’s report.

Passed Unanimously.

Agenda:

MassTrails Grant and related updates

MassTrails Grant Award

- Track your time – Tracking document.
- Acquisition complete!
- Time to submit for reimbursement on the Appraisal and complete the fencing.

MassDOT feasibility study

- Talked with Pete Sutton on 12/31. He was very happy with our response, especially that we plan to open trail this year.

Budget

- Challenge is that the grants are on a reimbursement basis.
- We can ask for reimbursement on the appraisal now.
- Fencing may have to wait for Spring.

To do for the grant

- Updated quotes on fencing – Ray got some updated quotes. Need status from Ray.
 - Gloria suggested chain link fence in the interim
 - Ray was going to review with police and fire and confirm that they understand that we would have a key.
- Think about the signs for the gates.
- Three signs for now
 - Tunnel Closed Pending Repairs
 - Safety message – “No Trespassing / Police take notice.”
 - Chris’ picture – like the Facebook fundraiser graphic. You are here marker. Each end of the tunnel
- DCR required signage in the Spring.
- Get some news coverage / social media coverage that the tunnel will be closed.
 - Post notices on sites where people may learn about the tunnel.
 - Hidden New England
 - T&G
 - This can also push traffic to our web site.
 - Wait until its closed to post this information.
- Any announcements / openings / press, we need to acknowledge MassTrails grant and let Amanda / Libby know

Deb and family visited the tunnel on 12/27 and it was very wet.

Other to dos

- Conservation Restriction that shows that CGCT has the trail development rights – SVT and other trails organizations (Northampton town planner has some experience) on CR.
- Reach out to Fisheries and Wildlife.
- Reach out to ConsComm
- Reached out to Joel Frisch at Clinton Home Foundation
- New Balance Foundation requires invitation for grant requests and plans to support existing project.
 - Send a letter.
 - Their focus is on childhood obesity. We have a good message on this.

Presentations

- Discover Clinton – 06/18 – postponed – Kerri will invite me when they meet. Emailed them in December.

Trail Walks

- Dick O'Brien offered to visit when the leaves are down. The available dates were a challenge, so I suggested postponing until the Spring.

MCRT Woodlands end

- Ric has requested a meeting with Rick Roper. Berthiaume parcel was purchased by Rick's partner.
- Encouraged Berlin to make an offer.
- Met with the Berlin Conservation Commission on December 16th to discuss how we had handled the transaction.

Funds

- Reached out to Clinton Home Foundation
- Will review options for grants from:
 - Community Foundation of North Central Mass
 - Greater Worcester Community Foundation
 - Massachusetts office of travel and Tourism
 - Mass Trails

Plain Street property

- status from John Hogan – CSB was not the highest bidder. The winning bidder may not be able to go through with his plan. John will have more information in another month or so.

Rauscher Farm Update - Gloria Parkinson

- From RFMSC meeting in December
 - ConsComm reviewed and approved the design.
 - It still required permitting.
 - To do with the wetlands – They had thought that “reclaiming” wetlands in one section of the area, they could bridge another.
 - Latest revised plan from December 3rd will be revised again.
- There will be a lot more signage on Rauscher Farm.
 - Conservation commission has budget for the signs.
 - Signs to close off one path
 - Signs on the side of the barn
 - Programs for 2021
 - Assuming that outdoor programs will be allowed
- Reclamation of Rauscher Farm from before it became a farm.
 - Message will be displayed at-a-glance.
 - With QR codes to get to additional information on the web
- Plan is to have an article on the Town Warrant to ask for funding for the trail.
- Working with WPI students on this overall plan
- More details on the trail after the review at RFMSC and the ConsComm
- Programs will be one or two a month beginning in April.
- Beavers on Clamshell Pond
 - They have a large house now.
 - Lots of discussion on the beavers and the water level of the pond

- Additional programs
 - Ukulele jam session

Websites

- Chris reached out to Scott Lewis related to getting some things setup on our website.
 - He has a fee schedule for certain services (for example memberships is 2.2% + .30)
 - Give WP.com is an option from WordPress.
 - Chris will see what she can do on her own first.
 - Scott specializes in working with trails and environmental groups.
 - We are now are setup as a secured site.
- Content for the new web site
 - Chris will develop from existing content first.
 - Our new site will have a blog site where we can post interesting stories.

Conservation Restrictions

- These are posted on the registry of deeds. Worcester County Registry of Deeds should have all Clinton CR's posted.

Motion to adjourn was made by Paul and seconded by Frannie at 8:21 PM. Passed unanimously.

CGCT Meeting 02/09/21 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Chris Ebstein.

Participants: via Zoom, Jim Webster, Chris Ebstein, Frannie Hodge, Paul Dakai, Ric Conradt, Deb Grant, Dean Briggs, Gloria Parkinson, Laurie Giovannucci

Reviewed Minutes from January meeting

Motion: Motion was made by Gloria and seconded by Dean to accept the January meeting minutes.

Discussion.

Clarification on the WPI student activity at Rauscher Farm. Should read “Working with WPI students to develop a pollinator habitat plan.”

Motion: Motion was made by Gloria and seconded by Dean to accept the January meeting minutes as amended.

Passed unanimously.

Reviewed Treasurer Report for February 9, 2021

Motion: Motion was made by Dean and seconded by Laurie to accept the February 9, 2021 treasurer’s report.

Passed Unanimously.

Agenda:

MassTrails Grant and related updates

MassTrails Grant Award

- Time to submit for reimbursement on the appraisal.
- Reached out to Amanda to confirm electronic documentation is ok.
- Followed up with Mike Ward on status for the town.
- Fencing
 - Confirming quotes for work this year and will make a recommendation to the board.
 - ~\$6,000
 - May try to get an additional quote from Arrow Fence out of Marlborough.
 - Signage related to tunnel closure - three signs for now.
 - Tunnel Closed Pending Repairs
 - Safety message – “No Trespassing / Police take notice” with guidance from fire and police.
 - Chris’ picture – like the Facebook fundraiser graphic. You are here marker. Each end of the tunnel
- Conservation Restriction needs to be completed.
- MassTrails Signage will also be required based on MassTrails specifications.

Other MCRT updates

- Berlin is organizing a citizens group for the MCRT.

Other trail topics

- Ric has provided some pictures and maps for the web site.
- We are happy to assist with content.

Plain Street Property

Rauscher Farm Update - Gloria Parkinson

- No big updates
- Working on costs for the path to Clamshell Pond
 - Several providers contacted – Kilcoyne, Favreau.

- Next step is to review with ConsComm. They will meet in February.
- Concern from Rauscher Farm neighbors about snow mobiles in the area
 - Gloria is following up with one of the neighbors.

Websites

- Chris has made some wonderful updates to our new web site.
- Everyone checked it out on various devices.
- Maps (including trail maps) and photos are being shared.
- We also need to provide write-ups for several items.

April 22nd Earth Day

- Chris reached out to Rosa to see if she wants to coordinate with us on an earth friendly event.
- Rauscher Farm is planning a walk on Rauscher Farm on April 17th. This is to search for vernal pools.
- Rauscher Farm is also planning a clean-up at Rauscher Farm on April 24th.
- Some discussion on coordinating some activities.

Motion to adjourn was made by Paul and seconded by Deb at 8:43 PM. Passed unanimously.

CGCT Meeting 03/09/21 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM by Chris Ebstein.

Participants: via Zoom, Jim Webster, Chris Ebstein, Frannie Hodge, Paul Dakai, Ric Conradt Dean Briggs, Gloria Parkinson, David Rees, 20ravens20

Reviewed Minutes from February meeting

Motion: Motion was made by Paul and seconded by Dean to accept the February meeting minutes.

No discussion.

Passed unanimously.

Reviewed Treasurer Report for February 9, 2021

Motion: Motion was made by Gloria and seconded by Dean to accept the March 9, 2021 treasurer's report.

Discussion. Dean asked about the Network for Good Donation.

Passed Unanimously.

Agenda:

MassTrails Grant and related updates

MassTrails Grant Award

- Reimbursement from the MassTrails grant for the appraisal has been submitted. No questions from MassTrails, so we should be set on this request.
 - Will advise Mike Ward so he can submit for reimbursement for the town.
- Fencing
 - Confirming quotes for work this year and will make a recommendation to the board.
 - ~\$6,000
 - Requested additional quote from Arrow Fence out of Marlborough.
 - Signage related to tunnel closure - three signs for now.
 - Tunnel Closed Pending Repairs
 - Safety message – “No Trespassing / Police take notice” with guidance from fire and police.
 - Chris' picture – like the Facebook fundraiser graphic. You are here marker. Each end of the tunnel
 - No motor vehicles allowed near the access from the Woodlands.
- Conservation Restriction needs to be completed.
- MassTrails Signage will also be required based on MassTrails specifications. We will reach out to MassTrails on advice as to where these signs should be displayed.

Plain Street Property

- No updates on this.

Rauscher Farm Update - Gloria Parkinson

- Gloria provided updates based on information that is already public.
- Motion on the Universal Access path to Clamshell Pond
 - ConsComm had not met for several months.
 - Gloria requested a special hearing on the trail.
 - Which organization would be the sponsor of the article for Town Meeting
 - ConsComm will sponsor the warrant article
 - Estimated cost is \$90,500.00
 - Gloria met with the Select Board later
 - Did not request their sponsorship for the

- It was on the meeting at 13 minutes into the meeting
 - David Cowell was also present at the meeting
 - Prior to the Select Board meeting, they joined the Finance Committee meeting
 - FinCom approval will be important to get support of this article at Town Meeting.
 - The current design does not include the additional parking area, but this is included in the cost.
 - The second parking area. This would be in the area of the lean to.
 - This is opposite the barn and the planned trailhead.
 - The designated ADA parking is included in the design and in the cost.
 - The estimated costs do not include volunteer labor.
- Clinton Cultural Council
 - Normal deadline is October
 - Last October, there was a delay in the deadline
 - Typically, Gloria requests \$250.00
 - Gloria got a letter indicating an award of \$900.00.
 - Rational for the funding is that the application pool was way down, so they had additional funds to distribute to applicants.
 - Gloria is asking for approval to spend the money on Rauscher Farm programs.
 - Gloria will come back to the group with plans for the funding.
- Additional funding from the town for Rauscher Farm
- Lost dog on Rauscher Farm was found!

April 22nd Earth Day

- April 24th Event Rauscher Farm for earth day. This is the Rauscher Farm Clean-up Day. We will also plan a trail clean-up as part of the event.
- This will need to be compliant with Massachusetts Covid-19 restrictions.
- Events in general may require pre-registration as part of the Covid-19 compliance.

Freedom's Way is having their May events:

- Gloria asked us to avoid the following dates.
 - Forester Saturday, May 22nd 1-4 PM, rain date, Sunday, May 23rd, 1-4 PM
 - Saturday, May 8th, Rauscher Farm Rocks, holdover from cultural council from last year.
- Available Saturdays are May 1st, 15th, and 29th. May 29th is Memorial Day weekend.
- Ideas
 - Something like the rail trail walk that we did previously.
 - Something with the Nashua River Watershed Association, such as along the River Walk path
 - Maybe something along Counterpane Brook.
 - Paul and Chris found a fire road near where Rigby Brook meets Counterpane Brook.
 - This is also not on our property.
 - Do something with the Woodlands and trails adjacent to Rauscher Farm?
 - Aqueduct Trail was suggested, but it is pretty steep.
 - The rail trail, Beaver Pond Trail, Clamshell Pond Trail, Power Line Trail, to Clamshell Loop Trail was selected.
 - May 15th 10 AM – Noon
 - Bring your own picnic lunch.
 - Gloria will pitch Rauscher Farm.
 - Frannie pitch MCRT
 - Ric and entourage for the trail
 - Port-o-Potty will be available by this date.

Websites

- We need to provide write-ups to Chris for several items.
- Share photos for the web site.

Motion to adjourn was made by Gloria and seconded by Paul at 8:55 PM. Passed unanimously.

CGCT Meeting 04/12/21 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 07:05 PM by Chris Ebstein.

Participants: via Zoom, Jim Webster, Chris Ebstein, Frannie Hodge, Paul Dakai, Ric Conradt, Gloria Parkinson, Laurie Giovannucci

Reviewed Minutes from March meeting

Motion: Motion was made by Gloria and seconded by Paul to accept the March meeting minutes.
Discussion. A few updates to remove extra bullets and correct statement.

Motion: Motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Gloria and seconded by Paul.
Passed unanimously.

Reviewed Treasurer Report for April 12, 2021

Motion: Motion was made by Frannie and seconded by Paul to accept the April 12, 2021 treasurer's report as amended.
Passed Unanimously.

Agenda:

Event – April 24th

- Chris created a flyer and distributed it around town.
- We should post to social media.
- Our website is not updated yet, but Facebook is advertising the event.
- Nicole from The Vegan Café Nest Café had reached out. She is opening a café location in Clinton and wants to support our events. Nicole is on our distribution list.
- Water, gloves, trash bags will be provided.
- Gloria has been posting the Rauscher Farm version of the flyer. She will also distribute on MailChimp.
- The port-o-potty will be available.
- 9 AM to 2 PM is the timeframe.

Trail Walk – May 15th

- We were accepted for Freedom's Way, which will provide funds for the event.
- We can send post cards.
- Ric proposed the trail – The route includes rail trail, Beaver Pond Trail, Clamshell Pond Trail, Power Line Trail, to Clamshell Loop Trail.
- Ric will reach out to Gary Johnson for permission to walk on his property.
- Ric spoke to Rick Roper about trails.
 - Discussed options for the rail trail path.
 - Ric mapped out for Rick Roper the two options.
- Ric will provide a map to Chris for the trail walk event.
- Chris will take a pre-walk on the trail to come up with some kid friendly options.

MasTrails Grant and related updates

MasTrails Grant Award

- Reimbursement from MasTrails received per the treasurer's report.
- Fencing -
 - Trail committee received updated quotes for Spring 2021 work. Frannie will make a recommendation to the board.
 - ~\$6,000
 - Requested additional quote from Arrow Fence out of Marlborough.
 - Signage related to tunnel closure - three signs for now.

- Tunnel Closed Pending Repairs
 - Safety message – “No Trespassing / Police take notice” with guidance from fire and police.
 - Chris’ picture – like the Facebook fundraiser graphic. You are here marker. Each end of the tunnel
 - No motor vehicles allowed near the access from the Woodlands.
- MassTrails Signage will also be required based on MassTrails specifications. We will reach out to MassTrails on advice as to where these signs should be displayed.

Rauscher Farm Update - Gloria Parkinson

- A draft of the town meeting article to request funding for the path to Clamshell Pond from the Town has been completed. Several steps to review this article before the town warrant is finalized.
- Small local foundation – “Live like Liberty” would like to provide funding for a program on Rauscher Farm.
 - Gloria asked whether CGCT was interested in being the entity to apply for the grant. Consensus is that we would be happy to be the entity to apply for the grant. We would like to know what the grant will be for.
 - The Rauscher Farm Management Subcommittee has some programs that are already planned that are not funded and may want to get funding for one of these programs.
 - This organization provides grants for \$50 to \$500.
- Worcester Mineral Club, suggested by Paul, had a contact who can deliver the rock program. Lawrence Ball will deliver the program. Date is to be finalized.

Websites

- We need to provide write-ups to Chris for several items.
- Share photos for the web site.

Motion to adjourn was made by Gloria and seconded by Paul at 8:17 PM. Passed unanimously.

CGCT Meeting 05/11/21 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:17 PM by Chris Ebstein.

Participants: via Zoom, Deb Grant, Paul Dakai, Chris Ebstein, Steven Gabis, Jim Webster, Gloria Parkinson

Reviewed Minutes from April meeting

Motion: Motion was made by Paul and seconded by Gloria to accept the April meeting minutes.

Discussion:

Café was entered twice in the Vegan Nest Cafe

Paul made a motion and Gloria seconded to accept the minutes as amended.

Motion: Motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Gloria and seconded by Paul.

Passed unanimously.

Reviewed Treasurer Report for May 11, 2021

Motion: Motion was made by Frannie and seconded by Paul to accept the May 11, 2021 treasurer's report/

Passed Unanimously.

Agenda:

MassTrails grant and related topics – Frannie

- Fence has been ordered and deposit paid.
- Signs for the tunnel and trail have been drafted.
 - We need to order soon.
- Frannie and Ric met with Dave Paulson from Fisheries and Wildlife regarding the endangered species habitat adjacent to the trail. Dave is responsible for Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program for Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
 - Dave does not see any concerns with gaining approval for our project from NHESP.
 - He provided some background on the process and costs for filing:
 - We will need to file a Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) Project Review because of the proximity of the habitat to our project.
 - Cost is expected to be \$300, based on up to 5 acres adjacent to the habitat.
 - We can file jointly with F&W and ConsComm when we are ready to proceed.
 - F&W will coordinate to have their review completed prior to ConsComm review.

Rauscher Farm update – Gloria

- Gloria shared good news on the funding for the Path to Clamshell Pond and other items for Rauscher Farm:
 - There is money in the town budget for the path to Clamshell Pond and the new parking areas.
 - There is funding that is available from the original bond for the purchase of the Rauscher Farm.
 - This \$144,000 can only be used for expenses related to Rauscher Farm per the requirements of the original article for the bond. It will require a warrant article to repurpose these funds to improve the Rauscher Farm.
- Live for Liberty Grant – the conservation commission is going to submit the grant application for an RFMSC event.
- The May 22nd event sponsored by RFMSC is part of the Freedom's Way May event series.
- The town is paying for signage for the Rauscher Farm through money allocated to the conservation commission.
- The town is also funding wildlife cameras that will be installed on Rauscher Farm.
 - Gloria and Jim participated in a session sponsored by SVT presented by Sally Nasser from Trustees of Reservations. Sally has a lot of experience with wildlife cameras (separate from her day job which is monitoring conservation restrictions).

- Sally recommended Browning cameras which have SD cards but also capability to integrate with cell phones for remote access.
 - Side note: Sally will do a program at the library.
- You can pick and choose what you upload. SD card may be better for video as you lose some resolution via phone.
- Cameras will be placed in strategic areas.
- ConsComm has also approved 4 nature cameras at \$1,150.00.
- Cameras offer a potential experience for people who are unable to walk to the locations where they will be positioned.
- Cameras will be protected with a lock box.
- The cellular plan for 1st camera is \$30 / month. The cost is \$5 / month for each additional camera.
- The town is also paying for a tool cabinet.
- Jim and Gloria, on behalf of the RFMSC are asking the CGCT for the funds for the cellular service.

Motion: Motion was made by Frannie and seconded by Gloria for the CGCT to provide the funds, expected to be \$540 / year, for the cellular service to access the Browning wildlife cameras that will be deployed on Rauscher Farm. No additional discussion.

Passed unanimously. Attendees at the time (Paul, Frannie, Chris, Jim, Gloria, and Deb).

Trail Walk – May 15th

- Who will be there? Everybody who was on the meeting, except Deb.
- Chris walked the route with Ric. Fairly easy walk with a few up hills climbs. Ric provided some comments on the path and the history.
- Chris created a great scavenger hunt for kids who join the walk.
 - Chris will print on card stock.
 - Chris will pick up some markers.
 - Paul has some pencils that he can bring.
- We will bring napkins, hand sanitizer, and water.
- Participants have been invited to have a picnic lunch on Rauscher Farm after the walk.

Motion to adjourn was made by Paul and seconded by Frannie at 8:45 PM. Passed unanimously.

CGCT Meeting 6/8/21 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM by Chris Ebstein.

Participants: via Zoom, Deb Grant, Paul Dakai, Chris Ebstein, Jim Webster, Gloria Parkinson, Ric Conradt, Dean Briggs, Janet Hardy

Reviewed Minutes from May meeting

Motion: Motion was made by Gloria and seconded by Jim to accept the May meeting minutes.
Passed unanimously.

Reviewed Treasurer Report for June 8, 2021

Discussion on the Saint-Gobain donation through Benevity.org. Benevity does take a percent.

Motion: Motion was made by Dean and seconded by Ric to accept the Jun 8, 2021 treasurer's report with the amendment to change butter to cutter.
Passed Unanimously.

Agenda:

MassTrails grant and related topics – Frannie

- Fence will be installed on 6/22 and 6/23 – need two checks for \$2,042.00.
- Lock box. Chief Lutes said that we can do a double lock chain link and just order padlocks. We would need 4 padlocks. They have the keys to two. We have the keys to two (one on each end). Each padlock is \$150.00, with shipping of \$20.00 for each item. The total will be \$500.00.
- Signs will be delivered to Frannie by the end of June. Need check for \$522.72 made out to MassCOR.
- Temporary signs will be needed for 6/23 through whenever the signs show up.
- Ric has volunteered to make the temporary signs.

- Grant for the tunnel remediation design phase
 - Looking at public and private foundations
- Other fund raising:
 - More in person fund raisers.
 - Sterling Street Brewery
 - Chili cookoff
- Clinton Home Foundation
 - Joel will invite Frannie to the next meeting to provide an update on our progress on the rail trail.
 - They may be able to fund some small expenses.
- Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts (CFNCM)
 - Frannie reached out to provide an update on the grant that we received from CFNCM.
 - CFNCM has forwarded the current grant report template which Frannie will complete.

Motion: Motion to allow Frannie to expend up to \$750 for the padlocks for the tunnel was made by Dean and seconded by Paul
No discussion.
Passed unanimously.

Rauscher Farm update

- Article for the funding for path to Clamshell passed.
- New signs paid by the town will have QR codes, so limited verbiage on the signs.
- Major progress on the trail and the signs
- Pollinator garden
 - Prof Rob Gegear program on 6/13 in Southborough
 - Chris and Gloria are going to this event on the Breakneck Hill Conservation Land.

- This is now a research site for Rob Geegar.
 - Conservation commission are very much in favor and gung ho on plans for pollinators.
 - ConsComm wants to join the pollinator task force.
 - One of the spots for a pollinator garden on the Rauscher Farm that was considered was the field between Grant and the Notaro homes. The Rauscher Farm Management Subcommittee has decided against this due to potential traffic to the rail trail.
 - Access to water in the first few years is also important. This is not honeybees. This is native bumble bees and butterflies.
- Rauscher Farm Rocks
 - Lawrence Bull will do the program on Saturday.
 - The program is 1-3 PM.
 - He will talk about the general rock formation and rocks within rocks.
- Sally Nasser program will be at the Bigelow Free Library on October 7th from 6:30 PM to 8 PM.
- Orders are going in this week for items at Rauscher Farm that are funded by the town.

Annual Meeting

- Proposed date – Tuesday, September 14th
- Discussion about having the meeting on site someplace.
 - Holder Memorial – 1st option
 - Basement of the Bigelow Free Library is being renovated, so may not be available.
 - If we use the library, it will need to be on Wednesday or Thursday.
- We will pencil in the 14th of September at the Holder Memorial.

Motion: Motion made by Frannie and seconded by Paul to approve Jim's \$430 expense incurred in May. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

Public acknowledgement of the Trail Walk in May by Ric and Chris. Very nicely done.

Motion: Motion to adjourn made by Ric and seconded by Paul at 8:17 PM
Passed unanimously.

CGCT Meeting 7/13/21 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Chris Ebstein.

Participants: via Zoom, Chris Ebstein, Jim Webster, Dean Briggs, Ric Conradt, Paul Dakai, Noah Bombard, Laurie Giovannucci joined part way through the meeting, Frannie Hodge left via computer and joined via telephone at 7:25.

Reviewed Minutes from June meeting

Motion: Motion was made by Dean and seconded by Jim to accept the June meeting minutes.
Passed unanimously.

Reviewed Treasurer Report for July 13, 2021

The expense for the Fire padlocks was not included.
The reimbursement from Freedom's way is included in the CGCT donations.
The report needs to be updated, so we did not make a motion to accept the treasurer's report.

Agenda:

Trails Committee Update

- MassTrails grant closed out. Last reimbursements will be paid at 100% as our tunnel inspection was accepted as the full match
- Amanda Lewis will visit the site on 7/15 at noon. Meet at Rauscher Farm parking area if you wish to join
- Challenges with "securing the tunnel" as the gates have been breached.

Fundraising & Events

Paul Dakai was emailing back and forth with the manager of Sterling Street Brewery about a fundraising event with them. A beer tasting or something like that. They have not met yet and anyone else is welcome to come along - Paul will let us know if a meeting is scheduled.

Olde Home Day 9/11

- Booth all day
- Focus will be on Rail Trail education & fundraising: sell T-shirts
- Paul suggested having some BLING to hand out - maybe for answering a trivia question.

CGCT Annual Meeting 9/14

10/2: Cleanup/Clearing day on rail trail - arrange to get refrigerator out of there?

10/16: Golden Spike MCTR Conference

11/6: Chili Cookoff

- Chris can't go 11/6 or 11/13
- Check on a location: Clinton Town Hall; Elks; Turner Hall
- Paul suggested reviewing lessons learned from last year. Based on shortages of goods, order paper goods and other things we need early.

Rauscher Farm Update – Jim Webster

- Pollinator Garden is now a Pollinator Habitat. Rob Gegear visited a second time to walk the Farm. He pointed out how many of the areas that have been cleared of invasives are growing back with some of the native plants that the native bees need. He will help with a plan to encourage the right plants to grow. ConsComm is very interested in following and helping with this project with the goal of spreading the effort to other areas & departments (Parks & Rec.)

- Reconstruction of Bird Habitats: David Ammerman walked through to show some native plants to be sure to preserve. He has supplied a detailed list of all the birds he has spotted on RF and where he spotted them.
- Accessibility: The ADA accessible toilet has been very popular. The Accessible Trail project is moving forward with the town building committee.
- See related notes that Gloria provided through Jim.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:04 PM: Jim motioned / Paul seconded. Passed unanimously.

CGCT Meeting 8/10/21 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM by Chris Ebstein.

Participants: via Zoom, Chris Ebstein, Jim Webster, Gloria Parkinson, Paul Dakai, Deb Grant, Kathryn O’Leary

Reviewed Minutes from July meeting

Motion: Motion was made by Paul and seconded by Jim to accept the July meeting minutes. Passed with one abstention as Gloria was not present at the meeting.

Reviewed Treasurer Report for July 13, 2021, Revised

There was an update to the report to reflect the payment for the fire padlocks to secure the tunnel.

Motion: Made by Frannie and seconded by Paul to accept the July Treasurer’s report as revised. Passed unanimously.

Reviewed Treasurer Report for August 10, 2021

Motion: Made by Frannie and seconded by Paul to accept the August Treasurer’s report. Passed unanimously.

Motion: Made by Gloria and seconded by Frannie to approve the renewal of our MassLand membership at \$100.00. Passed unanimously.

Request made by Gloria about two events under the Clinton Cultural Council.

Motion: Made by Frannie and seconded by Paul that we pay Michael Barry and Lawrence Ball for events provided at the Rauscher Farm from the Rauscher Farm Fund. They will be paid \$250 each, to be reimbursed by the Clinton Cultural Council to the Rauscher Farm Fund.

Rauscher Farm Update:

- No quorum at the last RFMSC meeting, so no motions made.
- Materials for Olde Home Day – redesign of the path to Clamshell Pond. ConsComm reviewed this. It includes the second parking area and more detail on the wetland’s reclamation aspect of the project.
- ConsComm are in favor of the design, but they want Dave Sadowski to re-word the wetlands reclamation process. The design is not accurate and cannot be shared with the public. This might be approved prior to Olde Home Day but may not be approved in time to share details at Olde Home Day.

Trails Committee Update

- Securing the tunnel will be reviewed with Select Board
- Applying for grant from Greater Worcester Community Foundation
- Looking at other funding sources.

Olde Home Day 9/11

- Setup for the booth before 9:00 AM
 - Jim will be there at 7:30 AM to get a good parking space
 - Frannie and Paul and Chris will be there for setup
 - Frannie, Chris, and Paul can be there most of the day.
 - Gloria will need to do some duty at the Friends of the Library
- Things for the booth
 - Town of Clinton with open space
 - MCRT updated maps
 - T-shirts are available – Chris will check on sizes and make arrangements if we need some sizes.
- Information about planned events:
 - Cleanup day is scheduled for October 2nd

- Chili Cook-Off will be postponed due to Covid
- Sterling Street Brewery – Paul has not received a response from the manager
 - Paul had a few ideas
 - Beer tasting
 - Trivia night
 - Music event
 - Craft beer with our name
 - Gloria asked about how many people can be seated. Their outside venue is not that big
 - Another option would be Meadowbrook Orchard
 - Frannie will call them when she gets home
- Other fund raising at Olde Home Day
 - Idea – sell Mums
 - Chris will reach out to Lancaster Gardens
 - Chris also has a contact for a wholesaler
 - Dale DiMeco might also be able to support this if the other two options do not work out
- Build a new fund raising thermometer
- Other events to talk about at Olde Home Day
 - Annual Meeting on 9/14
 - Cleanup Day on 10/2

CGCT Annual Meeting on 9/14

- Suggestion – focus on the phases for the trail development project
 - Focused review of the trail and the plans
 - Precise details will help focus the group
- Location – TBD. We would like to use the Holder Memorial but may not be able to do this due to Covid.
- We can plan an in person meeting, but have Zoom as a backup
- We need to notify the membership of the Annual Meeting
 - Chris will create an invitation
 - Frannie can print the mailing labels
- Story to tell about the project and the overall trail

We will continue the discussions via email.

Complete action items and get feedback

Motion to Adjourn at 8:21 PM: Paul motioned / Jim seconded. Passed unanimously.

CGCT Meeting 10/12/21 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Chris Ebstein.

Participants: via Zoom, Frannie Hodge, Dean Briggs, Paul Dakai, Jim Webster, Ric Conradt, Laurie Giovannucci, Chris Ebstein, Kathryn O’Leary, Gloria Parkinson, Noah Bombard, Steven Gabis.

Reviewed Minutes from August meeting

Motion was made by Dean and seconded by Ric to accept the August meeting minutes.
Passed unanimously.

Reviewed Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Laurie; seconded by Frannie to accept the Annual Meeting minutes.
Passed unanimously.

Reviewed Treasurer Report for October 12, 2021

Motion made by Frannie; seconded by Paul.
Passed unanimously.

Jim noted that DR Powerwagon still backordered.

July Treasurer’s Report

Motion: Made by Frannie and seconded by Paul to accept.
Passed unanimously.

Wildlife Cameras Presentation at the Bigelow Free Library

Motion to pay Sally Naser \$250 from Rauscher Farm Fund to hold event.
Frannie made a motion, seconded by Paul.
Passed unanimously.

Review of Clinton Olde Home Day.

Regarded as big success in terms of interest, memberships, contributions.
State Senator John Cronin offered to assign a staff member to keep track of grants and funding that might be relevant to us.
Chris to follow up with his legislative aide on. Frannie will provide name of legislative aide to Chris.

Could be funds in upcoming legislation for river cleanup. Frannie is tracking.

Review Greenway CleanDay event

More people would have been great, but still productive.
For wet area trail maintenance: next year should do it early September, so less disruptive to salamander egg-laying season (late Sept/early Oct.; hatch in spring).
Challenge with competing events, school sports.
Suggested to recruit high school students who need community service hours. Best way might be to recruit through a community service organization such as Rotary, etc.
Chris to ask Robert E. who he knows in the school system as contacts.
Noah will follow up with Phil Duffy about persons he knows through the town, to work on planned CGCT events.
Frannie had reached out to John Woodsmall about Scouts interested in projects, but there was no response.

Target project may be to clean up the tunnel entrance of brush and debris.

Observation that people are not turning up for local events at fixed date/times. People seem to be seeking “do at your own time” activities.

“Item” calendar may need more supplementation for publicity.

Discussion about Rail Trail projects, tunnel projects, Counterpane Brook projects—including small construction projects such as replacing the small bridge over the stream at the conjunction of the Rail Trail and the Rauscher Farm trail.

Pre-work for the Rail Trail, such as smoothing the rail bed by moving rocks was also discussed.

Trails Committee to chunk these into concrete projects—will be passed to them to work at their next meeting.

Plan another event

Sterling St. Brewery. Paul is talking with; will discuss upcoming events, what is the business model.

Suggested that we do something around the opening of the Dam at Mother’s Day. Possibility of tunnel tours.

Noted that events on town property (e.g., Tunnel-related) would need town approval. Events would be under the auspices of CGCT.

Movie night at the Strand?? Are people going to movies?

Trails Committee status/progress report, next steps for rail trail project

Rail Trail needs to be surveyed. Proposing survey for overall trail design, leveling, bridges, etc. Working the connection through the Woodlands, Tunnel remediation, Rte 70 crossing (scope TBD).

Will need detailed design as basis for costing. Funding would be sought from Mass DoT for construction. Further information needed about transportation bill, other funding mechanisms.

Recreational Trails funded projects need a 20% match, so CGCT would need to target those costs.

A visitor suggested reaching out to AMC around trails work and a work party. AMC may have grant money as well.

Suggested that a large local construction corp., which started by moving the graves from St. John’s old cemetery to the new during the Reservoir project, may be interested in contributing to the Rail Trail project.

Suggestion to schedule more Rail Trail cleanup parties

Year-End Card and Mailing Materials

Gloria: need to do an assessment in October of how many cards to prepare. She has cards, envelopes, other materials from last year and will count them. We will then need to estimate the number of additional cards to be prepared. And they need to be in the mail by mid-December. We will need to plan to have the envelope-stuffing party in December.

Dean to follow up with Frannie to get the list of names for the mailing.

RFMSC update

Volunteers are prioritizing removing seed heads from the extensive Purple Loosestrife spread on the wet fields.

Intending to approach Cons Comm and State for permits to bring in predatory beetles to reduce the Loosestrife, as was successfully done a decade ago.

Agenda:

Review Olde Home Day event

Review Greenway CleanDay event

Plan another event

Trails Committee status/progress report, next steps for rail trail project

Year-End Card and Mailing Materials

Motion to adjourn at 8:42pm made by Gloria; seconded by Paul.

CGCT Meeting 11/09/21 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM By Frannie Hodge.

Participants: Frannie Hodge, Kathryn O’Leary, Paul Dakai, Gloria Parkinson, Jim Webster, Steven Gabis, Dean Briggs

Agenda Items

Grant Request: Gloria requested that CGCT support her in submitting a grant request to the Live for Liberty Foundation. These funds would be used for activities such as site preparation: renting a sod cutter and a rototiller; adding topsoil if needed, perhaps providing fencing to keep out the rabbits and deer.

Motion by Frannie: That CGCT approve Gloria’s request to proceed with preparing a grant application to the Live for Liberty Foundation for up to \$500 to support preparation work for the Pollinator System at Rauscher Farm. Seconded by Paul. Passed unanimously.

Path to Clamshell Pond: Gloria reported that the Town has stepped in, taking over the project. The RFMSC still need to obtain a permit from the Conservation Commission, which has asked for small changes in the plan. Until those changes are made, we can’t apply for a Notice of Intent.

The Town Building Committee also must be involved since this is a project with a cost greater than \$50,000.

Subsequently there will be municipal solicitation prepared so that bids may be accepted for the project. Chris McGown informed Gloria that a project manager will not be needed; the Town can provide the necessary oversight.

It was noted that subprojects may be spun out of the larger effort.

Loosestrife Explosion: Gloria noted that a spring project at Rauscher Farm will be obtaining and raising a cohort of beetles that are intended to eat the plants. This will begin in April for a May growing season.

Holiday Mailing: Frannie noted that Chris had ordered return cards from the printer, and that when they arrive, we will coordinate assembling the remaining materials. Frannie has the mailing list, Dean has the stamps and other members have bits and pieces.

Gloria obtained return envelopes, which Jim will rubber stamp with the CGCT address. He then will turn over both the envelopes and rubber stamp to Frannie in anticipation of mail package assembly.

Card signing: Gloria and Jim will start signing the greeting cards now, then will pass them to Dean, who will pass to Paul, then to Frannie, then Chris, then Steven, then Ric, and to Laurie. Laurie will pass them to Dean, and he and Frannie will get together at his house with all the materials to stuff the envelopes.

Rail Trail: Frannie reported that the Trails Committee will develop a plan and estimates for design of trail access points with options, plus costs for remediation of the tunnel, and for the safe crossing of Route 70. Near term, they will obtain information and some preliminary pricing estimates. They will then develop: a grant application for Mass Trails, a MESA endangered species form, and a Notice of Intent for the Conservation Commission.

They will need to have the grant package ready for submission in February.

In a related matter, the Select Board discussed securing the tunnel and noted that Sean Kerrigan will work on this project with consultation from the Police and Fire Departments. The final arrangement will need to be approved by the Select Board and by Town Counsel.

Frannie noted that an event was being considered that would involve a Clinton Holiday Market and a Beer Garden. Zannah Noe, a CGCT member, and Phil Duffy are both involved. Phil would like to use a vacant lot on High St. for the beer garden. Our group is interested in participating and will reach out to Phil Duffy. It was suggested that we consider running a concession that provides nonalcoholic beverages at the beer garden, such as hot cider and/or hot chocolate.

Gloria made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Frannie.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.

— Revised minutes submitted by Dean Briggs, Clerk, 12/16/2021

CGCT Meeting 12/14/2021 — Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Chris Ebstein.

Participants: via Zoom, Frannie Hodge, Chris Ebstein, Jim Webster, Noah Bombard, Deb Grant, Gloria Parkinson, Paul Dakai, Francisco Ramos.

Welcome, Francisco Ramos, to CGCT

Reviewed Minutes from October Meeting

Motion was made by Jim, seconded by Frannie to accept the October Meeting minutes.
Passed unanimously.

Reviewed Minutes from November Meeting

Motion was made by Gloria, seconded by Paul to accept the November Meeting minutes as revised in the meeting.
Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report for October

Noted that Treasurer role was in transition from Jim to Frannie last month.
Motion to accept made by Paul, seconded by Jim.
Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report to December 14, 2021

Motion to accept made by Dean, seconded by Paul.
Passed unanimously.
Noted that we started using Square, the credit card processing company, for the Winter Market. We also set up a bank account with Square to facilitate transfer of funds to the CGCT and Rauscher Farm accounts.

World Wide Web Domain Names

Noted that CLINTONGREENWAY.ORG needs to be renewed. Chris will address.

Clinton Winter Market

Staffed by Chris, Frannie and Deb, with assistance from Dean, and Steve Gabis.
It was a new event in town, hastily moved to Ciccone after the old fire house was deemed unsafe by the building inspector.
There was a good turnout over the two days, and a lot of interest in the CGCT table.
Hot items included: short- and long-sleeve T-shirts, the beautifully-painted holiday cards which quickly sold out, the pine cone elves, and the Rauscher Farm nature photos.

Facebook fundraising appeal

There is good income from that ongoing effort; results to be provided later.

Discussion of end-of-year holiday card fundraising.

Deb mailed out all the cards, minus those that were directed to Gloria for additional notes. There is evidence that when we send to people who have already contributed earlier in the year, they sometimes make an additional contribution.

Rail Trail Update

Another Mass Trails funding cycle will be starting shortly with funds available from DoT. We've learned that the Regional Planning Commissions are being consulted about worthy projects. Ours, the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, is aware of us and supportive around needs for our rail trail. Frannie will continue to work with all parties. She has reached out to our tunnel inspectors to invite a quote for design and engineering work. Frannie is also identifying other funding sources to solicit for the project.

Deb called Miller Fence about the vandalism to the tunnel gate they installed. Miller will send CGCT some ideas for a better scheme.

Rauscher Farm

Gloria noted that changes were made in the ADA Trail Plan to meet Conservation Commission requests. Those will go back to ConsComm in the Jan/Feb timeframe for review and approval. Chris McGown may then begin the municipal bid process.

The Purple Loosestrife plan for next spring is moving ahead, with upcoming consultation from Fish and Wildlife predatory beetle expert Georgeann Keer to several members who have expressed an interest in beetle husbandry.

New signage for the barn is in hand, an installation design has been prepared, and installation is the next step. In order to discourage wasps from nesting between the back of the signs and the vertical lath on the barn, an estimated 100 horizontal cross-pieces will need to be cut to block openings behind the signs.

Ideas for a Next Event

Paul is communicating with Sterling St. Brewery about possibly holding a fundraising event there. The group made a number of suggestions for structuring the event, as well as suggesting some other possible venues.

Frannie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by all. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM

— Submitted by Dean Briggs, Clerk, 12/16/2021